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### Curtis H. Sykes collection, 1931-1988

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# **Curtis H. Sykes collection**

## **MG.00146**

**Finding aid prepared by the Arkansas State Archives**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

June 10, 2020

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Arkansas State Archives
<b>Title</b>	Curtis H. Sykes collection
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1931-1988
<b>Extent</b>	0.04 Cubic feet 2 reels microfilm
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Language of Materials</b>	Materials entirely in English.
<b>Microform [Reel]</b>	MG.00146

### Preferred Citation

Curtis H. Sykes collection, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

## Biographical/Historical Note

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Curtis H. Sykes was born December 21, 1930, in the Dark Hollow community of North Little Rock, Arkansas. He graduated from Scipio A. Jones High School in 1947, and later served as a sergeant in the United States Army during the Korean War. On November 27, 1955, he married Delois Mitchell of Camden, Arkansas, and the couple had three daughters, Adrienne, Belinda, and Curlethia Sykes.

He earned a B.S. from Arkansas Baptist College, a M.A. in Education from Texas College, Tyler, Texas, and a M.S. in Education from Harding University, Searcy, Arkansas, where he was the first African American student to graduate. Sykes was a school principal and educator for over thirty-four years.

Sykes was instrumental in the establishment of the Black History Advisory Committee (now the Black History Commission of Arkansas) of the Arkansas History Commission, created by Act 1233 of 1991, and served as chairman from 1993 until 2007. He pushed for legislation to have African American history taught in Arkansas schools, kindergarten through twelfth grades, under Act 326 of 1997. Sykes also encouraged the creation of the African American History Coordinator position at the Arkansas History Commission.

He was a charter member of the North Little Rock History Commission; a frequent contributor of black history articles in "The Times" newspaper, North Little Rock; and a tireless historian and community activist. Sykes was also a life member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, Phi Lambda Chapter; Most Worshipful Prince Hall Mason; Scipio A. Jones High School Alumni, North Little Rock; The Dark Hollow Community Development Corporation, North Little Rock; and numerous other memberships.

In February 2008, a part of 15th Street in North Little Rock was renamed Curtis Sykes Drive, and the 15th Street Interstate exit was also later renamed. In March 2008, he received the "Lifetime Achievement Award," from the Arkansas Historical Association (posthumous). The Black History Commission's grant program was renamed the Curtis H. Sykes Memorial Grant Program with Act 660 of 2009. He died on September 9, 2007.

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## Scope and Contents

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The collection contains yearbooks of Scipio A. Jones and other schools, church programs, and journals of the Arkansas Teachers Association.

## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Arkansas State Archives 04/20/2010

### **Conditions Governing Access**

This collection is available on microfilm only.

### **Conditions Governing Use**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17-U.S. Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. The person using this material is liable for any infringement.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Curtis H. Sykes, North Little Rock, Arkansas, 1994.

## Collection Inventory

Scipio A. Jones High School, North Little Rock, Arkansas, "Dragonette" yearbooks	Reel MG.00146
1. 1942	
2. 1946	
3. 1947	
4. 1948	
5. 1951	
6. 1953	
7. 1954	
8. 1955	
9. 1960	
10. 1961	
11. 1962	

School yearbooks, general

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12. 1965

13. 1966

**School yearbooks, general**

**Reel**  
MG.00147

14. Golden High School, Turrell, Arkansas, "The Dragon," 1957

15. Marion Anderson High School, Brinkley, Arkansas, 1964

16. Carver High School, Augusta, Arkansas, "The Bearcat," 1956

**Churches**

17. King Solomon Baptist Church, North Little Rock, Arkansas, "Program of the 66th anniversary of King Solomon Baptist Church," 1970 July 14-19

18. King Solomon Baptist Church, North Little Rock, Arkansas, "Commemorating our 84th anniversary, 1904-1988, King Solomon Baptist Church," 1988 March 18 and 20

19. Bethel African Methodist Church, North Little Rock, Arkansas, "Centennial celebration, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1873-1973," 1973 November 29-December 2

**Arkansas Teachers' Association, "The Bulletin"**

20. 1931 July



Arkansas Teachers' Association, "The Bulletin"

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21. 1932 October [front cover only]

22. 1936 March

23. 1937 March

24. 1938 March

25. 1939 December

26. 1944 April-June

27. 1945 April-June

28. 1945 July-September

29. 1948 April-June

30. 1957 December

31. 1962 September

32. 1964 March

33. 1964 June

34. 1964 September

Arkansas Teachers' Association, "The Bulletin"

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35. 1964 December

36. 1965 March

37. 1965 June

38. 1966 June

39. 1968 December-February